

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 15.

The ice in the river is softening under the influence of the weather, for the last two days, and the constant passage of heavy steamers is breaking it up. We have heavy fogs every morning, and other indications of a general thaw—but it is not at all unlikely, that before the winter ends, there will be another freeze. In the meanwhile all the ice houses, almost, in town, have been filled with good solid ice, almost equal to that usually brought from the North.

Henry M. Warfield, Esq., of Baltimore, has gone to Richmond, under a flag of truce, at the solicitation of the authorities at Washington, for the purpose of negotiating for the exchange of Major White, of Pennsylvania, now a prisoner in the hands of the Confederates, being authorized to offer in exchange for him Major General I. R. Trimble, of the Confederate army, formerly of Maryland who was wounded and captured at the battle of Gettysburg, and is now a prisoner at Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio. Mr. Warfield, it is supposed, left Fortress Mon on Wednesday for the Confederate capital.

A letter from Mr. Holt, the U. S. Judge Advocate General says that President Lincoln holds that the amnesty offered by his proclamation does not extend to prisoners of war, nor to persons suffering punishment under sentence of military courts, or on trial, or under charges for military offences.

The leading Republican journals, as well as the Republican Conventions, in the North, are generally coming out in favor of the re-election of Mr. Lincoln. At present there seems no reason to doubt of his re-election.

The people of Washington are likely to have a sufficiency of local railroads, judging by the number of bills which parties in interest are having brought before Congress.

Charleston dispatchs of Friday the 8th reports all quiet, the Federal forces being engaged in repairing the damages done by the storm.

Oysters are brought here, during the closing of the river by the ice, from Annapolis, already opened, and sell at from \$2 to \$2.50 per gallon.

"The sales of property for taxes in the insurrectionary districts of Virginia" will be continued on the 20th inst.

Fresh beef, in the Baltimore market is quoted, as selling from 8 to 15 cts. per lb., according to quality.

The stable of Messrs. C. C. Smoot & son, at the Tan Yard, was broke open last night and a valuable horse stolen therefrom.

The late cold weather caused no advance in the price of fuel in Baltimore.

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 154½.

President Lincoln's levee, on Tuesday evening last was not so fully attended as usual.—Lord Lyons and Secretary Seward were present; also speaker Colfax, Gens. Heintzleman, French and other celebrities.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate yesterday the bill authorizing the President to appoint a second assistant Secretary of War was passed. The bill amendatory of the enrollment act was taken up, and the section repealing the commutation clause was rejected by a vote of twelve yeas to twenty-eight nays. An amendment was adopted providing that in case a substitute is furnished who is liable to the draft the name of the person furnishing him shall again be placed upon the roll, and shall be liable to draft on future calls. Another amendment was adopted providing that any drafted person who shall pay money for the procurement of a substitute shall only be relieved from the draft on that call, and his name shall be retained on the roll and be subject to draft on future calls. This, we presume, will be made to apply in the same way to parties who pay commutation money. The amendment exempting all persons recognized by the ecclesiastical bodies of the denominations to which they belong as ministers was adopted.

In the House of Representatives, the consideration of the joint resolution explanatory of the Confiscation act was resumed. Mr. Cox opposed the resolution, holding that the entire confiscation system had been an utter failure. He said the guilty had already been reached, and now the object of the resolution under consideration was to punish the innocent, even children unborn. The debate was continued at length by Messrs. Stevens, Orth, and Davis of Maryland. The latter remarked that the result of the political elections in the Central States had placed the Administration beyond the necessity of relying upon such support as the gentleman from Ohio—Mr. Cox—would render it, and of the support of the majority of those on the other side, acting with him, who had voted for a resolution pronouncing this to be an inhuman war. The House took up and passed the Senate joint resolution providing that all moneys paid by drafted men shall be paid into the Treasury and drawn out on requisitions, as other public moneys are, to pay the expenses of the draft and procuring substitutes. The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and proceeded to consider the bill to increase the Internal Revenue. Mr. Stevens offered an amendment that all spirits distilled since August 31st, 1862, on hand for sale, or removed for consumption or sale, upon which no duties have been paid or collected, and upon which no returns have been made, shall pay the proposed tax of sixty cents per gallon. This amendment led to an animated debate, during which Mr. Stevens remarked that the proposed increase of the tax would put into the Treasury over twenty-five millions of dollars. On being told by a member that the article would not stand such a tax, Mr. Stevens replied that "men would drink whisky whatever it cost." The amendment was finally adopted, when the Committee rose and the House adjourned.

The New York Daily News publishes a highly eulogistic notice of the Hon. Benj. G. Harris, of Maryland whom the telegraph reported dead a few days since. The Hon. gentleman is not only alive, but in the enjoyment of his usual good health.

It is stated that that the North Carolina troops in Gen. Lee's army have been sent back to Orange Court House.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

ORANGE COURT-HOUSE, January 8.—Snow fell last night to the depth of four inches.

A telegram from General Lee announces the capture, in Hardy county, of one hundred and twenty-three cattle, one hundred and twenty-five mules, and two hundred Yankees.

General Morgan and staff had a public reception at Richmond on the 8th instant.

Senator Oldham, of Texas, has introduced a bill in Congress proposing a tax of fifty per cent. on all outstanding Treasury notes on the 1st of January next known as general currency. The House occupied the greater part of yesterday discussing the bill for the repeal of the exemption law.

The Richmond Enquirer, of the 12th contains the following:

WILMINGTON, January 13.—To General Cooper: The steamer Hero ran ashore near Georgetown after landing the naval officers.—Twenty-four Yankees were captured, and one Yankee steamer was blown up; the report was heard in town. No details.

(Signed) WHITING, General.

The U. S. Secretary of War, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, reports the number of general officers unemployed, the length of time off duty, their staffs and pay of each, with the number off duty in consequence of wounds received in the service; Major generals unemployed 14; brigadier generals 11—total 25. Staff officers of the same 25. Three colonels, 1 lieutenant colonel, 7 lieutenants. Total monthly pay of officers and staffs \$12,200.

The N. Y. Herald's Belize correspondent reports the capture of the schooner Jos. L. Geity, from Matamoras for Havana, by six Confederate passengers, who put the captain and crew in a small boat, landing them at Campeachy and Sizal. The vessel, under the name of the Eureka, arrived at Belize, where the captain sold the cargo of cotton, receiving part payment in cash. They left upon a reward being offered for their arrest by the British authorities.

Queen Victoria had the children of the workmen on the Osborn estate assembled on Christmas, where a Christmas tree, loaded with presents, was arranged. The Queen spent the afternoon in distributing the presents to the children, consisting of wearing apparel, books, toys, &c. Afterwards she gave great coats, blankets, &c., to the laboring men and women. A few days before, the Queen dispensed liberally to the blind and paralytic and around London.

DIED.

In Fairfax county, this morning, of Consumption, CHARLES CONYERS, in the 18th year of his age. The funeral will take place from the residence of Mr. Francis Stonnell, on the Telegraph Road, five miles from this city, to-morrow afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

GREAT PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE.—The quickest and safest route to the North west and Southwest. Two through trains daily, and one on Sunday. Soldiers' tickets at Government rates to all the principal points in the North and West. For tickets and further information, apply at the office of the "Great Pennsylvania Route," northeast corner Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street, under National Hotel. Office open from 5 a. m., to 9 p. m.; on Sundays 2 to 4 p. m.

E. O. NORTON, Agent.

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